



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REGISTRATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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## Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program

### *The Registration Act*

The Sanitarian Registration Act was signed by Governor Earl Warren on June 15, 1945. The original law has been amended several times since it was first adopted. The current Registration Act became law on January 1, 1989. The requirements for registration are found in the California Health & Safety Code, Article 4.5, Sections 106600 to 106735. The intent of the law is found in Section 106600, which states, in part:

*It is the intent of the Legislature in adopting this article to safeguard the health, safety, and general welfare of the public by the registration of those environmental health professionals practicing as environmental health specialists who have completed an approved environmental health or science curriculum and who are qualified to work, or are working, within the scope of the field of environmental health as defined by this article.*

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*In adopting this article, it is recognized that the field of environmental health is a dynamic field, which is continually evolving into new and complex areas of concern. This article recognizes the existence of overlapping functions with other professions carrying out specific activities, which may include some aspects of the field of environmental health. The title of a person registered under this article shall be environmental health specialist....*

The Article provides a definition of words and phrases, describes the scope of the law, and specifies the minimum education and training requirements. It covers many aspects of registration including the approval of Environmental Health educational institutions, under what conditions trainees may work, fees, and investigation of complaints against registrants for unprofessional or unethical behavior.

## Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee

### *Responsibility of the Committee*

*Oversee the registration process and in conformance with that responsibility, to make such recommendations to the Department of Health Services as necessary to ensure that the **integrity** of Environmental Health registration is maintained.*

### *Activities of the Committee*

- Evaluates Environmental Health degree programs and recommends approval of these programs in colleges and universities,
- Recommends alternatives for continuing education,
- Reviews complaints against Registered Environmental Health Specialists for criminal, unprofessional or unethical practices, and recommends the appropriate disciplinary actions, and
- May recommend special commendations for meritorious or exemplary actions in the field of Environmental Health.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REGISTRATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



The Registration Act establishes the Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee (EHSRC). The EHSRC is mandated to advise and make recommendations to the State Department of Health Services with respect to the establishment of rules and regulations necessary to ensure the proper administration and enforcement of the registration of environmental health specialists. The EHSRC consists of one nonvoting member, the Environmental Management Branch Chief, State Department of Health Services, and ten voting members. The ten voting members must be residents of the State. The current committee members are as follows:

Two from California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH):	Donna Heran (San Joaquin County), Pamela Bennett (San Bernardino County)
One from working public sector:	Karen Morgan Newe (Orange County)
One from working private sector:	Susan Harmon (Hughes Research Laboratories)
One from California Environmental Health Association (CEHA):	Jill Pahl (Napa County )*
Two from the Environmental Health Department of a California University with approved Environmental Health curricula:	Donna Gurule (Loma Linda University),* Tom Hatfield (California State University at Northridge)
California Conference of Local Health Officers	VACANT
Two public members not working in Environmental Health one appointed by the Senate and Assembly:	Jeff Roberts (Assembly, WAXIE Sanitary Supply),* Robert T. Chou (Senate, WI Harper Group)
Environmental Management Branch Chief State Department of Health Services	Jack McGurk (ex officio member)

CHAIRPERSON: Karen Newe	SECRETARY: Donna Heran
EHS Registration Program Administrator: Douglas E. Turner	

\*Although the term expired on January 1, 1999, for these individuals they can continue to serve until they are re-appointed or replaced.

The EHSRC members are appointed by the Director of the Department of Health Services, the Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly through a process outlined in the statute. The appointments are for a 4-year term and members may serve no more than two successive terms. The EHSRC members are not elected and, as such, do not necessarily represent a particular group. A diverse membership allows varying viewpoints to be represented on the EHSRC. The EHSRC members

are not compensated for committee activities but are reimbursed for travel expenses. The EHSRC routinely meets twice per year, once during the California Environmental Health Association, Annual Educational Symposium and again in the fall. All meetings are open to the public. Questions concerning EHSRC can be directed to the Department of Health Services (916) 324-8819 or, EHSRC Officers or Members.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Registration Exam Schedule**

March 24, 2000	Los Angeles Sacramento
July 14, 2000	Los Angeles Sacramento
November 17, 2000	Los Angeles Sacramento

### **EHSRC Meetings**

December 1999	Riverside
April 2000	Fresno

## TID BITS

### ***DOUGLAS TURNER ACCEPTS PROMOTION***

After 19 years of service as the Environmental Health Specialist Program Administrator, Douglas Turner has accepted a promotion with the Institutions Program of the Environmental Management Branch. We thank Doug for his many years of hard work and dedication to the profession.

### *TEST RESULTS FOR THE REGISTRATION EXAM*

	Pass Point	#Passed	#Failed
Nov 1998	65%	45	9
March 1999	64%	45	11
July 1999	65%	37	7

## Change of Address?

Help us keep your address information current. We get a lot of returned biennial fee notices and job opportunity bulletins because of incorrect or old addresses. It is your responsibility to inform us of any change in address. Section 106700 of the Health and Safety Code requires that a non-refundable biennial fee be paid by each Registered Environmental Health Specialist on or before the first day of January of every second year or such other date as determined by the department.

If you fail to pay your registration fee your registration will be suspended and eventually be revoked after three years. A penalty fee of \$46.00 or 50% of the biennial renewal fee for each year of delinquency is required for failure to pay the registration fee by the established due date.

If you have moved or had a change of address, please contact this office at (916) 324-8819 or send the information to the Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program at P.O. Box 942732 (MS 396), Sacramento, CA 94234-7320.❖

## Exam Questions – Test Your Skills

The Department of Health Services contracted with Cooperative Personnel Services of Sacramento in 1992 to develop and validate a large pool of questions for the registration exam. The exam and questions are reviewed regularly by the Department and a panel of well-respected California Registered Environmental Health Specialist subject matter experts. We have included two sample questions that a prospective candidate may expect on the registration exam. Please take a few moments and select the best answers. Good luck! The answers appear below.

### **Question 1.**

In the field of public health law, state government's police power is an attribute of a sovereign government; whereas, the federal government is a government of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. absolute police power.
- b. delegated police power.
- c. limited delegated powers.
- d. constitutional police power.

### **Question 2.**

Which statement about hydraulic conductivity in soils is true?

- a. Hydraulic conductivity increases for all soils as they dry.
- b. Soils with small, discontinuous water-filled pores have high hydraulic conductivity.
- c. Unsaturated soils with large air-filled pores have a high hydraulic conductivity.
- d. As soils dry, the hydraulic conductivity of clay soils can become greater than that of sandy soils.

## Biennial Registration Renewal

Have you renewed your Environmental Health Specialist registration? If you do not renew your registration it will be suspended and eventually revoked after three years. On or before the first day of January of every second year you are required to renew your registration. Each year during the month of November we mail the biennial registration renewal letters. If in the last two years you have not received a renewal letter from the Department of Health Services or renewed your registration you should immediately contact the Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program at **(916) 324-8819**. The registration that you save may be your own.

Department of Health Services  
Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program  
P.O. Box 94234 (MS 396)  
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address  
Street Number and Name  
City, State 98765-4321